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Letter dated 1 March 2016 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you, upon my Government's instructions, with reference to the letter dated 15 February 2016 from the representative of the Syrian regime.

In my previous letters, I have emphasized the lack of transparency on the part of the Syrian regime in its declarations on its chemical weapon stockpiles. Pointing to the "negligence" in leaving behind chemical weapons in bunkers to be captured by Daesh/ISIL, I also provided examples of the linkage between the regime's chemical weapons inventory and the use of chemical weapons by Daesh/ISIL in Syria.

The use of toxic chemicals as weapons in Syria is not only a violation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction and the relevant Security Council resolutions, but also one of the most horrific acts in contemporary history. The regime now has a well-established record of atrocities involving the use of toxic chemicals as weapons. Such attacks are by no means isolated incidents: they are part of the regime's strategy aimed at supporting its military campaign through the repeated and systematic use of toxic chemicals.

The Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons-United Nations Joint Investigative Mechanism submitted its first report last week (see S/2016/142), and I wish today to reiterate the importance of the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions, including the identification by the Mechanism of those responsible for or otherwise involved in these most brutal acts. In the meantime, the regime's representative, through his baseless allegations, is continuing his efforts to distract attention from the regime's brutal oppression of the Syrian people in an attempt to avoid responsibility and accountability.

I would be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

16-03339 (E) 020316

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